

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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-----115793 060525Z /14

R 041147Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7696
INFO USCINCEUR VIHINGEN G
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON R

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3201

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SHUM IR
SUBJ: CONTINUED INCIDENTS OF CIVIL DISORDER

REF: TEHRAN 3146

SUMMARY: SMALL INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE CONTINUE. ONE ADDITIONAL
PROTESTOR DIED FROM INJURIES IN AHWAZ. MORE ARRESTED FOR
ALLEGEDLY PLANNING TO DISTRIBUTE SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE CASSETTES.
RESURGENCE PARTY WING LEADER HAS CRITICIZED VIOLENT PROTEST,
CALLED FOR COMMITTEES TO STUDY WAYS TO HANDLE PROBELM. END
SUMMARY.

1. PRESS APRIL 4 REPORTS CONTINUING INCIDENTS OF ATTACKS ON
BANKS, GOVT OFFICES, PARTY HQS, ETC. IN ABOUT A DOZEN PROVINCIAL
TOWNS. SECURITY AND POLICE FORCES REMAIN ON ALERT, AND MOST
INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN HALTED BEFORE SEVERE DAMAGE WAS DONE. POLICE
REPORT TOTAL OF 43 INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AS RESULT OF
DISTURBANCE OF LAST FEW DAYS. ONE AHWAZ RIOTER DIED IN HOSPITAL
OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN WEEKEND DISTURBANCES WHICH POLICE HAD TO
BREAK UP.

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2. IN ARAK, POLICE WARNED DRIVERS OF GOVT VEHICLES TO CHECK THEIR
CARS BEFORE ENTERING IN CASE EXPLOSIVES HAVE BEEN PLANTED. THERE
HAVE BEEN SEVERAL CASES OF ATTEMPTED FIRE BOMBING OF VEHICLES.

3. POLICE ARRESTED 4 STUDENTS AND A TEACHER APRIL 1 IN TEHRAN FOR
ALLEGEDLY PLANNING TO DISTRIBUTE SUBVERSIVE CASSETTES AND PRINTED

MATTER. 5 WERE HELD IN CUSTODY FOR INVESTIGATION. IN ADDITION TO THOSE

REFTEL REPORTED ARRESTED IN TABRIZ FOR SAME OFFENSE, SECURITY AGENTS REPORTEDLY ARRESTED 2 MORE MEN FOR SELLING CASSETTES CONTAINING "SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA". EMB HAS LEARNED PRIVATELY THAT THESE CASSETTES MOST PROBABLY ARE THOSE MADE OF AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI'S SPEECHES AT SMALL MEETINGS IN IRAQ, THEN SMUGGLED ACROSS THE BORDER. EMB SHORTLY HOPES TO HAVE AT LEAST PRECIS OF 4 MAJOR CASSETTES NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED IN TEHRAN. MAIN THRUST OF CASSETTES AS REPORTED TO US IS ATTACK AGAINST GOI FOR DISOBEYING "LAWS OF ISLAM" AND CALL FOR RETURN TO "CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT", WITH REVIVED ROLE FOR RELIGIOUS OFFICIALS IN GOVT.

4. IN STATEMENT FIRST RELEASED IN PERSIAN APRIL 2, RESURGENCE PARTY PROGRESSIVE WING LEADER ABDOL MAJID MAJIDI CRITICIZED THOSE WHO HAVE FAILED TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE NEW OPEN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE. ATTACKING THOSE WHO CONCEAL THEIR IDEAS AND WHISPER NEGATIVE COMMENTS HERE AND THERE, HE CHALLENGED THEM TO COME OUT INTO THE OPEN. MAJIDI ALSO SUGGESTED A "COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO FIGHT SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS" WHICH WOULD BEGIN WITH FORMATION OF A RESURGENCE PARTY COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP WAYS OF CURBING THE VIOLENCE NOW OCCURRING IN IRAN. TEHRAN JOURNAL AND ETTELA'AT COMMENTED GUARDEDLY ON MAJIDI'S PROPOSAL EDITORIALY APRIL 4, SUGGESTING HIS WORDS NEEDED TO BE TRANSLATED INTO ACTION. EDITORIAL CALLED FOR BALANCED APPROACH TO PROBLEM--EXAMINING TROUBLES FOR POSSIBLY GENUINE GRIEVANCES REQUIRING REMEDIAL ACTION
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AMONG THE PEOPLE, AS WELL AS WORKING TO ROOT OUT ANY NEFARIOUS FOREIGN INFLUENCES THAT MIGHT EXIST AND CONTROLLING THOSE WHO ARE UNBALANCED ENOUGH TO SEEK THEIR THRILLS THROUGH DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES. EDITORIAL CLOSED WITH HOPE THAT "A VIOLENT BACKLASH WILL NOT BE SEEN AS PREFERABLE TO LONGER-TERM PROBING AND EDUCATION".

5. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER INCIDENTS INVOLVING FOREIGNERS SINCE THOSE REPORTED REFTTEL AND EARLIER.
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